

INMATE MEDICAL CO-PAYMENT REVENUE

In response to the increasing cost of medical services, the DOC initiated in FY 1996 a "Medical Co-Pay" program whereby inmates are charged a fee or co-payment for certain medical services. The size of the co-payment varies with the kind of medical service rendered (doctor's visits, dental services, prescription drugs, artificial limbs, dentures, eyeglasses, hearing aids, etc.). The revenue from inmate medical co-payments is used to fund the DOC's telemedicine program. The telemedicine program, established at 9 facilities, enables inmates to receive medical care from remote locations (in this case the UVA and MCV medical centers), reducing the security costs associated with transporting inmates to medical facilities. The DOC's chronic problem of recruiting and retaining health care professionals is also alleviated by the telemedicine program.

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